

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-1/10/91

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Piedmont Camp Meeting Grounds Historic Districtother names/site number 60-500

2. Location

south side of VA Route 637 at intersectionstreet & number with VA Route 602.N/A ☐ not for publicationcity, town PiedmontN/A ☐ vicinitystate Virginiacode VAcounty Montgomerycode 121zip code 24162

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☐ building(s)☒ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

2200022

Noncontributing

11 buildings0 sites0 structures0 objects11 TotalName of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and
Historic Resources of Montgomery CountyNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register,☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the NationalRegister. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the

National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: camp
Religion: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: camp
Religion : religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: nave-plan church
Other: double-cell plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Wood: weatherboard
Wood: board and batten
roof asphalt
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Piedmont Camp Meeting Grounds District is located in a hemlock grove on the bank of Bottom Creek in the mountainous and heavily wooded southeastern part of the county on the headwaters of the South Fork of the Roanoke River. VA Route 637 makes a loop around the west, north, and eastern sides of the roughly rectangular site. The district includes a large, rustic tabernacle, the principal structure in the campground, a group of small frame cabins, a dining hall in a former church building, a 1936 concrete block church, and on the north side of VA Route 637, the ca. 1873 nave-plan Piedmont Methodist Church, the district's oldest building, and the church from which the Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness group broke away. The buildings are all in good repair and largely unaltered. Modern restrooms and several trailers are classified as noncontributing.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The tabernacle, which was built in 1939, is an aisled gable-roofed frame structure open on three sides and supported by untrimmed logs. The common-rafter roof is carried by purlins above the central two ranges of posts. At the east end an enclosed polygonal apse with a hipped roof covers the raised podium which incorporates a central pulpit and kneeling rails. The building has an added concrete floor. Immediately to its east is the early twentieth-century dining hall, a frame building originally built as the year-round church for the Holiness congregation. It was moved from the site of the present church to serve as a "restaurant" (scrapbook) about 1936. The one-story, rectangular original building has double-hung ornamental rafter ends, weatherboarded walls, two-over-two sash windows, and six-panel doors. A frame ell was added to the east and in recent years a large frame addition was made to the west. The main water tap is located over a well to the immediate east.

The cottages are all of frame construction. Most have basic rectangular forms with casement windows, board-and-batten walls, asphalt roll roofing, and a front porch. Many appear to have begun as one- or two-room (double cell) cottages and were later expanded. Two cottages take a three-part form consisting of a pair of gabled cells linked by a gabled screen porch in the

☒ See continuation sheet

3. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca.1873-1940

Significant Dates

1910

1936

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Piedmont Camp Meeting Grounds District is significant under criterion C as an important group of structures demonstrating the form of a seasonal religious campground associated with a long tradition dating to the early nineteenth-century camp meeting phenomenon. The residential structures appear to be related to the regional double-cell dwelling of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, although they are considerably smaller than most of the more than 1,000 such houses found in the county survey. The tabernacle is a unique building within the county, although similar forms exist in the state and nation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first church at Piedmont was a Methodist chapel, one of six new Methodist churches built in the county in the 1870s and 1880s. The church was built on a lot purchased in 1873. Beginning at about the same time a movement began on the national scale in the Methodist Church to restore the doctrine of perfection (holiness) or sanctification following a second crisis of experience to follow conversion. Beginning in 1885 the southern church began purging the very popular holiness movement from the church. After 1895 many churches split or new churches were formed in a score of New Holiness or Pentecostal denominations (Synan p. 50).

The Piedmont Methodist Church had a tent revival in 1910. People began to speak in tongues, but opposition by a group within the church caused the charismatic group to leave. G. H. Jewell, one of the group, gave the land just across the road for a tabernacle. The camp meeting has been held there annually since then. A frame church was built soon after (relocated and cut in size to become the present dining room). The first tabernacle was built around three pine trees which supported the roof. In the 1930s and 1940s the cottages were built. A new

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Henson, Lois A. The Family Jewels. Franklin Springs: Advocate Press, 1979.
- Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church Campground Scrapbook. 1910 to present. Compiled by and in the possession of Lois A. Henson.
- Synan, Vinson. The Holiness Pentecostal Movement in the United States. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1971.
- Weiss, Ellen. "Methodist Camp Meeting Grounds: Regional Modes." Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, University of Missouri Press, Columbia, 1986.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property five acres.

UTM References

A 1 7 5 6 9 4 4 0 4 1 0 6 3 8 0
Zone Easting Northing

C 1 7 5 6 9 6 5 0 4 1 0 6 5 8 0

B 1 7 5 6 9 4 0 0 4 1 0 6 5 4 0
Zone Easting Northing

D 1 7 5 6 9 6 6 0 4 1 0 6 4 0 0

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the west side of VA Route 602 twenty feet north of Piedmont Methodist Church (60-502), proceeding approximately 100 feet west to point B, thence proceeding 300 feet south along a line to point C at the intersection of VA Route 637 and a driveway, thence north along northeast side of the drive 100 feet to point D, thence north approximate

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were selected to enclose the campground and associated buildings and landscape roads, and creek.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date June 1989

street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs telephone (703) 552-1730

city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Piedmont Camp Meeting
Grounds District, 60-500

Section number 7 Page 1

center, presenting a triple gable front to the road. Some are constructed of concrete block, and several are sided with bricktex. Doors are usually four-panel; some are board and batten. Some partially enclosed trailers have been inserted. Plantings around the cottages vary from little or nothing to carefully maintained ferns, boxwood, and rhododendron. Hemlock trees throughout the grounds seem to predate the campground.

Facing the road and obscuring the view of the tabernacle is an unusual church building constructed of concrete block. The original nave-plan Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church was enlarged with four classrooms across the front in 1957. The steeple with electric chimes was added in 1960. The block facade was not painted until the 1970s.

Across the road from the church and facing it obliquely is the ca. 1873 nave-plan wooden frame Piedmont Methodist Church. The structure takes a simple rectangular form and has pointed-arched windows, returned box cornices, and narrow corner pilasters. It is sheathed in weatherboard and is entered through a double door in the center of the gabled front, under a bracketed shelf mold. It has a stone foundation and a hip-roofed wing on the west side, as well as later block additions on the north. There is a board-and-batten privy to the rear (northwest).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPrehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Piedmont Camp Meeting Grounds
Historic District, 60-500Section number 7 Page 2

PIEDMONT CAMP MEETING GROUNDS HISTORIC DISTRICT

NOTE: All resources are contributing unless marked (NC) for
noncontributing

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Building 1 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame and asbestos shingle, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 2 | 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, frame and bricktex, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 3 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 4 | 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 5 | 1950s metal mobile home (NC) |
| Building 6 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, concrete block, ca. 1950 building (NC) |
| Building 7 | 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, concrete block, ca. 1950 restroom facilities (NC) |
| Building 8 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with bricktex, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 9 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 10 | 1-story, 2-bay, shed-roofed, frame with vertical wood siding, ca. 1940 wash house |
| Building 11 | 1-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 12 | 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 13 | 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, concrete block, ca. 1950 building (NC) |
| Building 14 | ca. 1950 metal mobile home (NC) |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPrehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Piedmont Camp Meeting Grounds
Historic District 60-500Section number 7 Page 3

-
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Building 15 | 1950s metal mobile home with frame addition (NC) |
| Building 16 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with vertical wood siding, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 17 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with weatherboard, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 18 | ca. 1960 metal mobile home (NC) |
| Building 19 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with weatherboard, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 20 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 21 | 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 22 | ca. 1950 metal mobile home (NC) |
| Building 23 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with weatherboard, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage with modern alterations (NC) |
| Building 24 | ca. 1950 metal mobile home (NC) |
| Building 25 | 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 26 | ca. 1950 metal mobile home (NC) |
| Building 27 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with composition siding, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 28 | 1-story, 7-bay, gable-roofed, frame with bricktex, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 29 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame with board and batten, ca. 1940 vernacular cottage |
| Building 30 | 1-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, concrete block, 1936 vernacular Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church with 1957 front addition |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Prehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery Coun
Piedmont Camp Meeting Ground
Historic District 60-500

Section number 7 Page 4

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Building 31 | 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, 1939 frame assembly hall known as a tabernacle |
| Building 32 | 1-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, ca. 1910 frame with weatherboard dining hall originally built as the Pentecostal Holiness church |
| Building 33 | 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed, frame with weatherboard, ca. 1873 vernacular Piedmont Methodist Church |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Prehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Piedmont Camp Meeting
Grounds District, 60-500

tabernacle was built behind the church in 1939. The church itself had been rebuilt in concrete block in 1936 and enlarged in 1957 (Underwood and Henson). The original Methodist church at length closed, was incorporated into the Pentecostal property, and renamed the Jewell Building. It is used for classes, storage, and houses a historical collection.

The camp meeting ground and the two churches (the Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church and the former Piedmont Methodist Church) provide an important context for the development of rural cultural life in late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century Montgomery County, incorporating the forms of gatherings in earlier periods. The buildings and their arrangements are a link with the long-vanished camp meetings of the early nineteenth century. The cottages are related to the permanent residential structures in the area, but more importantly, to the kinds of dwellings used at camp meetings across the country for over a century. One cottage called "Our Cottage" has been significantly altered and is a noncontributing resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Piedmont Camp Meeting
Grounds District, 60-500

Section number 10 Page 1

800 feet along the north side of Bottom Creek to point E, thence north and west 900 feet on west and south side of VA Route 637 to point F, thence 200 feet northwest to the point of origin.

PHOTO KEY / SKETCH MAP

..... DISTRICT BOUNDARY

 NON CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

① PHOTO KEY

NOT TO SCALE

Ranch
house

trailer.

site
60-501.

Site 60-

33

P. P. Methodist Church

ῥῑνυ

300 ft.

Bottom
Creek

800 ft.

tabernacle

Dining
Hall
(former
church)

م

31

30

Prepared P.H.
Church
Concrete block
(c. 1936)

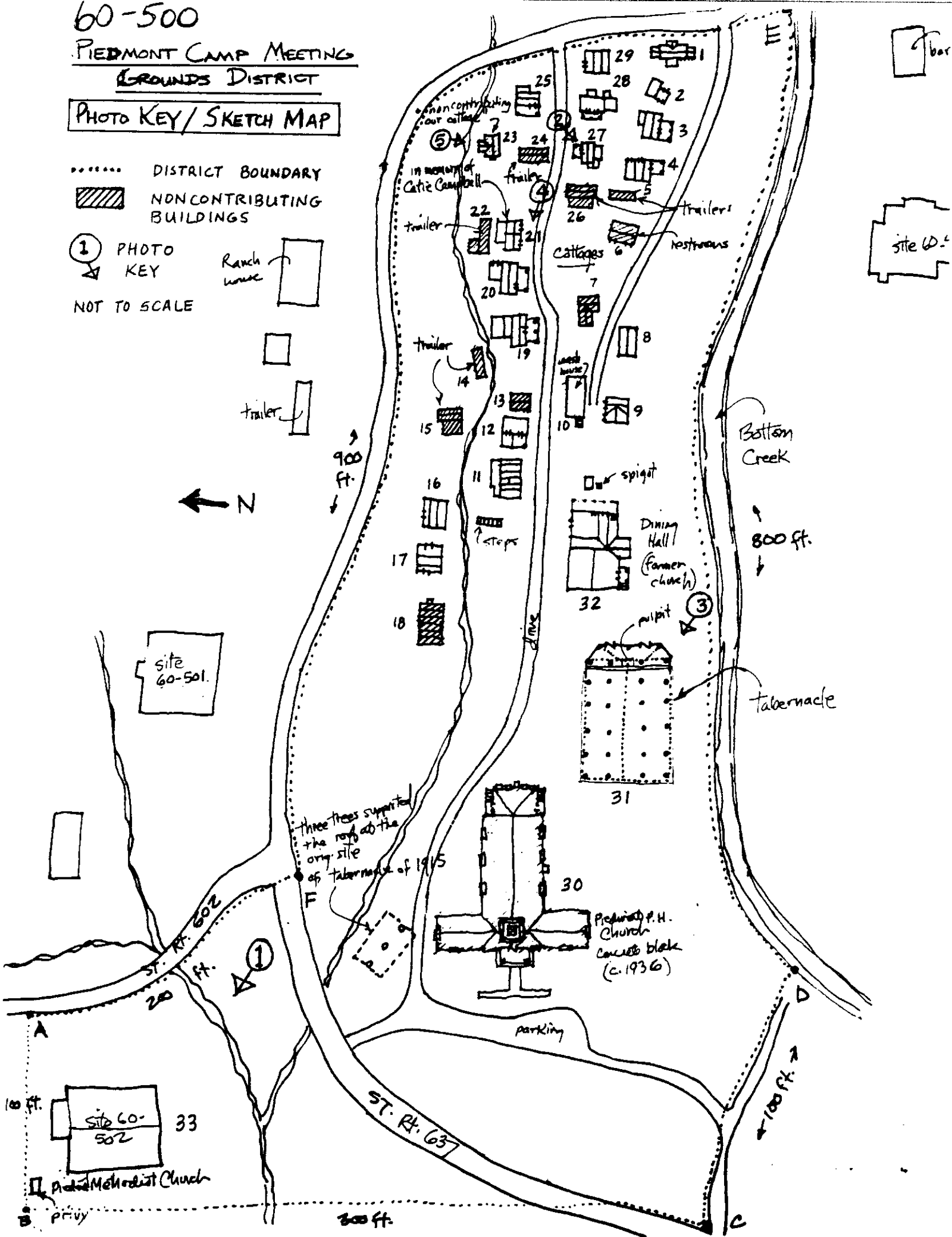
parking

ST. Rt. 63

1000

site 60.4

Thor



4958 III
(BLACKSBURG)
1:62500

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

CHECK, VA.
QUAD

PIEDMONT CAMP
MEETING GROUNDS

A17 569440 4106380
B17 569400 4106340
C17 569650 4106580
D17 569660 4106400

